



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: The Gifts from Jesus (Spring)  
Year 1, Lesson 53

# What Disciples Do

**Bible Event:** Acts 2:42-47

**Take Home Point:** \*JESUS IS IN ME – *I am a disciple too.*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** Jesus lives in me. I have his love and his power to be a disciple.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn that anyone can be a disciple – even a kid. Disciples read the Bible, invite others to know Jesus, share their gifts, trust Jesus, and worship and pray. These are things all of us can do because Jesus' Spirit lives in us. Kids will take home the point: \***JESUS IS IN ME – *I am a disciple too.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

**Lesson 53 - 1**



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

**Video Suggestion:** Your choice, if available.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

## Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: Simple Storytelling

Reading a Bible Story or telling a Bible event can be done effectively with expressive voice and dramatic gestures.

**Presenter:** Today we are going to talk about disciples. Disciples are special friends of Jesus who believe in him. When Jesus was on earth, there were his special friends, the twelve disciples. But other people believed in Jesus and were disciples too. In fact, even though Jesus' body isn't here on earth today, because his Spirit is in us, we can be disciples.

**So let's talk about what disciples do. What are some important things that people do to show they love and believe in Jesus?**

At this point, begin using the "Disciple Picture for Kids" to explain the five parts of discipleship. This may be done several ways. One option is to use transparencies and an overhead projector to show the generic 'disciple' and add the parts as they are discussed. Another option is to have the generic disciple blown up to poster size and use tape or Velcro to attach the pieces as they are discussed.

**1.) The first thing disciples do is read, or listen to someone read, the Bible.** (Attach the Bible piece at the feet of the disciple.) **The Bible is God's word. We all need to know what God's word says so we can follow what he wants us to do. We can hear God's word at Kids Church or at home.**

**2.) The second thing disciples do is invite others to know Jesus. (Attach the hand that is motioning people in.) Disciples want to tell others about Jesus so they can know and believe in him, too. We can do this by inviting friends to Kids Church and telling our family and friends what we learn there.**

**3.) The next thing disciples do is share the gifts God has given us. (Attach the hands exchanging the package.) There are lots of ways to share what you have. You can give your offering to God at church. You can volunteer to help at Kids Church. You can help your family at home by doing what your parents ask you to do. Disciples want to help others by sharing themselves.**

**4.) Disciples trust Jesus. (Attach the heart with the cross on the disciple's chest.) We know that Jesus died on the cross for us, so our sins would be forgiven. We also know Jesus sent his Spirit to live in our hearts so that we won't ever be alone.**

**5.) The last thing disciples do is worship and pray! (Attach the open hands on the disciple's chest.) Worship is how we show God we love him. One way we worship is by singing. Any time we tell God how much we love him, we are giving him worship and praise. Prayer is the way we talk to Jesus. We can tell him things we're concerned about or things we're thankful for. We know that he always listens to our prayers.**

**Now our picture is complete. It shows the five very important things that disciples do. Let's see if we do any of these things in Kids Church.**

Quickly review each part and ask the children if they can think of a time when we do these things. For example, do we ever read the Bible or listen to a Bible event in Kids Church? Do we ever invite friends to come to Kids Church with us? Do we ever collect offering or have helpers at Kids Church? Etc.....

**No matter how old or young we are, we can all be disciples. When Jesus' Spirit is in our heart, we can do it! Remember: \*JESUS IS IN ME – *I am a disciple too.***



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

*During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.*

**Snack Zone:** Use gingerbread men cookie cutters to cut “disciples” from bread. Spread with butter, jelly, cinnamon sugar, etc.

*Option:* pre-made Gingerbread men cookies.

**Healthy Snack Option:** What a great opportunity to talk about taking care of the bodies that the Holy Spirit lives in!! God has created such awesome food for us, so let’s eat some! Share fruits, vegetables, nuts, beans, etc.

**Drama Zone:** Have each picture that correlates to the five discipleship traits in a bag or box. Have children draw a picture out of the bag and act it out.

**Puppet Zone:** Let the children use puppets to practice inviting others to church or telling others about Jesus.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the story of Discipleship from today’s Bible event.

**Craft Zone:** Have children decorate the “Disciple Picture for Kids” as desired. If possible, have the pieces cut out in advance and placed in small bowls for easier application to picture. Possible ideas: watercolors, markers, crayons, glitter glue, miniature bows for the gift, Bible, heart, cross and praying hands stickers. Review the parts as they decorate.

**Play Zone:** Provide two sets of discipleship pictures (Bible, inviting hand, gift, prayer hands and heart with cross) scattered face down on a table. Have two teams compete to get a complete set of pictures first. Send one team member to the table at a time to retrieve a picture that the team needs. *Option:* If a team has more than five members, designate a child to be the picture holder and to keep track of which pictures the team still needs.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Basket of books. Include any that feature stories about discipleship.

**Music Zone:** Provide instruments for children to play to worship God.

**Coloring Zone:** “What’s a Disciple Do?” coloring page



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

## Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

## Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

**Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes on stage with a headpiece on, making him look like a disciple. He thinks that disciples only existed in Jesus' time, so the only way he could be one was to dress like one.

The large group presenter explains to Bubba that's not true! Anyone who believes in Jesus and has Jesus' Spirit in his heart can be a disciple! People today are disciples. Kids can be disciples too.

That makes Bubba very excited. He wants to be a disciple, too. But he doesn't really know what that means. What does a disciple do?

The presenter pulls out the "Disciple Picture for Kids" (transparency or poster) and asks the kids to help him explain the different parts to Bubba. The presenter and kids recap what it means to: read the Bible, invite others to know Jesus, share your gifts, trust Jesus, and worship and pray. Remember: **\*JESUS IS IN ME – I am a disciple too.**

## Prayer Time:

**Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

## "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## **Blessing:**

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross hands over the heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## **Song of Sending:**

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## **Closing Zones:**

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- Bible
- large “Disciple Picture for Kids” (transparencies or poster with attachments)

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- slices of bread
- butter, jelly, cinnamon sugar, etc.
- gingerbread men cookies cutters
- *optional:* gingerbread men cookies

### *Drama:*

- discipleship pictures (Bible, inviting hand, gift, praying hands, and heart with cross) cut out individually
- a sack or box

### *Craft:*

- “Disciple Picture for Kids”
- markers and crayons
- *optional:* watercolors, glitter glue, etc.
- *optional:* miniature self-adhesive bows
- *optional:* Bible, heart, cross, praying hands stickers

### *Play:*

- discipleship pictures (Bible, inviting hand, gift, praying hands, and heart with cross) cut out individually (two sets)
- masking tape (for starting line, if desired)
- table

### *Quiet Reading:*

- basket of books

### *Music:*

- various instruments

### *Puppet:*

- various puppets

### *Felt:*

- materials for reenacting story

## *Closing Worship:*

- Bubba, the puppet
- cloth headpiece
- large “Disciple Picture for Kids” (transparencies or poster with attachments)

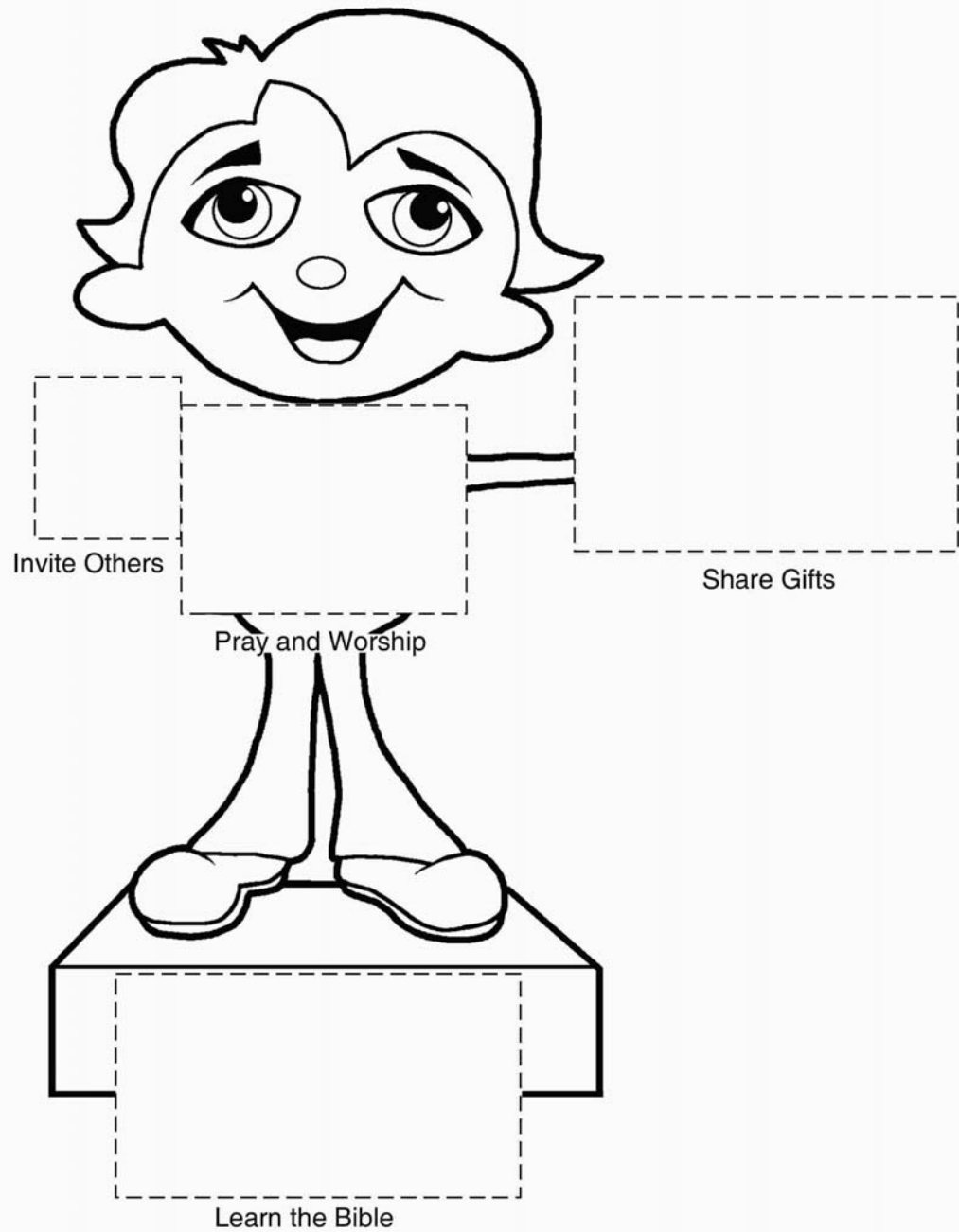
## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books





What does a "Little Disciple" do?



What does a “Little Disciple” do?

